- The Chief Engineer of the State PWD or other State approved agency for construction works or his nominee not below the rank of a Superintending Engineer, as member,
- Three industry representatives nominated by major industry associations, as members,
- Three members having knowledge, expertise and interest in vocational training nominated by, and
- The State/UT Government, as members, The State Director dealing with ITIs shall be the *ex-officio* member, and shall act as Secretary of the SSC.

Functions:

- Guiding overall implementation and monitoring of the Scheme at the State level,
- Assessing and recommending the Institute Development Plans (IDPs) of the Institute Management Committee (IMC) for financing under the Scheme to the Central Government,
- Authorising submission of reports to the NSC or Central Government, wherever required, under the scheme,
- Reviewing and approving the training plans for the staff of State Implementation Cell (SIC),
- Coordination with the Industry/Industry Partners/Industry Associations at the State level to solve their problems in implementation, if any,
- Performing any other specific function as provided under the tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to be signed among the Central Government, State Govt. and Industry Partner.

Import of Chinese toys

†*85. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons of returning to China the toys imported by America in the year 2007;

(b) whether it is a fact that China is supplying those toys to India which were returned by America;

(c) whether there exists a system to check the quality of toys imported from China;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) There is no firm information available with Government of India about return of imported toys by America to China in the year 2007. Similarly there is no information available regarding China supplying the toys to India, which were returned by America. However, it is understood that in recent months, the largest number of recalls of toys imported from China into USA has been due to United States Consumer Product Safety Commission having found excess level of lead paint, violating the US Government lead paint standard. There were some other toys/ children articles which were recalled due to design or manufacturing defects which had or could have caused injury. Among the most extensive recalls of this nature was the recall of Barbie and Tanner magnetic toys by MATTEL due to magnets coming loose which could be swallowed by children. There were also cases of toys recalled due to fire/burning hazard.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Toys are classified under Chapter 95 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import items. Import of toys is free. As per Foreign Trade Policy, all imports are subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods.

As regards the safety requirement for toys, the Bureau of Indian Standards has published the following three standards for safety requirement for toys:—

1. IS 9873 (Part-I): 2001/ISO 8124-1:2000 Safety requirements for toys: Part 1: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties.
2. IS 9873 (Part 2): 1999/ISO 8124-2:1994 Safety requirements for toys: Part 2: Flammability requirements.
3. IS 9873 (Part 3) 1999/ISO 8124-3:1997 Safety requirements for toys; Part 3: Migration of certain elements, perscribed maximum acceptable element migration, for Antimony (Sb), Arsenic (As), Barium (Ba), Cadmium (Cd), Chromium (Cr), Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg) and Selenium (Se) from toy materials.

The aforementioned BIS standards are neither mandatory on domestic manufacturers nor on imports. Ministry of Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises has set up testing facilities for evaluation of toys at Testing Centres at Mumbai and New Delhi.

Misuse of Arms Licences

*86 PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the unregulated sale of arms licences has come under the Supreme Court's scanner which has asked the Centre and all States to furnish their response on allegations that such licences are being issued without following proper guidelines and also on the contentions about sale of service arms by Army personnel to arms dealers for monetary gains;

(b) if so, whether States and Centre have already furnished details as required by the Supreme Court;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to check misuse of arms licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) bearing No. WP (Civil) No. 462 of 2007 has been filed in the Supreme Court. The Union of India and the Government of Rajasthan are the respondents in the writ petition. The Supreme Court has issued notice on 7.9.2007 to the respondents. The following main prayers have been made in the writ petition:—

(i) direct an enquiry by an independent agency like CBI to probe the issue involved in the present petition and take action against the concerned officials including army personnel involved in the Arms Licences scandal in the District of Sriganganagar, Rajasthan;

(ii) direct the Home Ministry, State of Rajasthan, to cancel forthwith all licences, issued illegally to the applicants whose licenses have been issued without due verification/ identification as provided under the Arms Act, 1959.

(iii) Pass appropriate direction to the Union of India to strictly follow the provisions of Arms Act, 1959, and frame strict guidelines, to be followed by all the officials/licensing authority of all the States of the Country, whereby making it mandatory for issuance of license, to be done by the Home Ministry after proper verification and mandatory